

July 20, 1951.

Dear Aaron-

I called you earlier, but you were out. I was wondering whether you had any single, preferably double auxotroph mutants of E. coli B, that I might use to try out a new angle on fertility. Could you send them to me fastest way if they are available. If not, could I have B itself (all I have are B/r and a slew of B/x). Thanks very much.

Your snapshot of your HEAD came out beautifully. Here are the negatives; we made a trial enlargement for ourselves. We have a lot of other pictures too, but we hope you'll be visiting with us in a month or so (±) to make nasty cracks about them yourself. Our shot of your feet came out charmingly; I can't say the same for the superior structures.

We're serious about your vacating Chicago, and mean to take you up on your own vague previous acquiescence. How about it?

We've only just gotten back to work, waiting to finish up ms. details, and to recover from our trip (via Woods Hole and a cracked rear bumper). Esther and I are polishing up a divertissement: using replica plating (velvet) to prove the clonal preexistence of resistant mutants, and to isolate them by indirect (topographical) enrichment without their ever contacting the phage or drug. The bacteriologists around here seem to understand this point almost for the first time now, so, what with Eagle, I thought there might be some point to wasting our time this way.

We almost did come back through Chicago; I'm sorry I didn't take your laundry bag, but we finally decided to detour around the city. Next time, we'll take the Outer Drive again!

Till we see you both,

